

ADOT to explain freeway route through park

Colleen Sparks

The Arizona Republic

Feb. 27, 2008 08:06 AM

Residents can get a visual on how exactly the proposed South Mountain Freeway would cut through mountain ridges and run at ground level along the Pecos Road alignment Thursday night. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will discuss the route it is proposing for the controversial freeway at a South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team meeting.

The ADOT freeway study team will talk about why it prefers to extend the freeway through three mountain ridges, creating canyons in South Mountain Park, rather than building a tunnel underneath or a bridge over them, ADOT community relations director Tim Tait said.

"Getting through the ridges of South Mountain alone is a very interesting issue," he said. "It's very complex."

A tunnel or bridge would be expensive, hard to maintain and create safety concerns, Tait said. The ADOT team also had to take into account cost and drainage issues when determining the route, he said.

The freeway would have displaced as many as 616 homes if it were built below ground level, compared to 317 expected if it is built at ground level, Tait said.

Some Ahwatukee residents have concerns about the proposed freeway, ranging from environmental impacts to the impact on local children.

"It's a unique scenario with significant implications to the park itself and the wildlife, not to mention the Indians and the negative effect it would have on their sacred grounds," Ahwatukee resident and advisory team member Chad Blostone said.

Advisory team member John Rodriguez of Ahwatukee said he believes putting the freeway at ground level would turn Kyrene de los Lagos

Elementary School black from pollution because it's so close to the Pecos Road alignment.

The public meeting is at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union Hall at South Mountain Community College, 7050 S. 24th St.

Advertisement



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™